



American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
**Emergency Message for
U.S. Citizens**



TO: U.S. Citizens
FROM: ACS Unit
DATE: August 21, 2011
SUBJECT: Tropical Storm Irene

Following is an Emergency Message being transmitted to alert Americans traveling or resident in the Dominican Republic that the National Hurricane Center (NHC) www.nhc.noaa.gov has issued alerts for a tropical storm system that is currently located at 17.5N 63.7W, about 70 miles (115 kilometers) east-southeast of St. Croix and about 185 miles (300 kilometers) east-southeast of Ponce, Puerto Rico. Please circulate this to your constituents.

The National Hurricane Center reports that a hurricane warning is in effect for the Dominican Republic with Tropical Storm Irene projected to reach the country by Monday, August 22. According to the Hurricane Center, Irene is gathering strength and is expecting to continue its west-northwest motion for the next couple of days with a gradual decrease in forward speed. Irene will pass near or over the U.S. Virgin Islands later today, near or over Puerto Rico tonight, and approach the Dominican Republic on Monday.

Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph (85 km/h) with higher gusts. Some strengthening is forecast during the next day or so, and Irene is expected to become a hurricane by Monday.

Hurricane conditions are expected over Puerto Rico including Vieques and Culebra tonight, and over the Dominican Republic on Monday.

Total rainfall accumulations of 6 to 10 inches are possible across the Dominican Republic and Haiti, with isolated maximum amounts of 20 inches possible. These rains could cause life-threatening flash floods and mud slides in areas of steep terrain.

A storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 3 to 5 feet above normal tide levels along the coast of the Dominican Republic in the hurricane warning area. A storm surge of 1 to 3 feet above normal tide levels is expected along the coast of Puerto Rico as well as in the tropical storm warning area. Near the coast, the surge will be accompanied by large and dangerous waves.

Updated information may be found on the National Hurricane Center's website at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

The Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) has issued severe flood alerts for all provinces in the country. RED alert levels have been declared for the Southwestern provinces of the country which are most at risk.

The U.S. Embassy will continue to monitor Tropical Storm Irene's track, and will issue updated messages if necessary. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all time (i.e. U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that U.S. citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on our "[Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go](#)" webpage, and on the "[Natural Disasters](#)" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs website. For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts can be found. Up to date security information can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00am to 8:00pm EST, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page <http://www.embajadausa.gov.do>.